

(*Note: Wherever the word “you” or “your” is singular and refers to one human being, it is printed with an italic y, as in: you. Wherever such a word refers to God, the y is printed in capital, as in: You.*)

For Fast 19

Chapter 25

Note: In the verses below is described the great transformation which the Holy Prophet Muhammad had already brought about. The great qualities spoken of as being met with in the servants of the Beneficent present a striking contrast with the evils which reigned supreme in Arabia. They were an arrogant people, who trampled the rights of their fellow-beings under their feet, but the faithful now walked in humility and led lives of lowliness, in which they had the greatest regard for others' rights (v. 63). In the days of ignorance they passed their nights in drunken orgies, but now they kept awake at night in devotion and were instead drunk with the love of God (v. 64). In the days of ignorance they spent money extravagantly, when it was a question of pride, and they did not care for the poor dying of hunger, but now they spent every penny they could on others (v. 67). Formerly idols were worshipped in Arabia, human blood was shed on the slightest pretext, sex-relations were loose to an extreme, but they had now become the torch-bearers of Divine Unity, for whose sake they willingly suffered every privation, homicide was looked upon with abhorrence, the highest value was placed on the chastity of men and women, and righteousness was the one thing in which men and women vied one with another (vv. 68–71). Truth and faithfulness were the great qualities that ruled people's minds, in the new dispensation, and a life full of vigour and earnestness was seen in the place of ignorance, superstition and immorality, which were the chief features of pre-Islamic Arabia (vv. 72–74).

- 63 And the servants of the Beneficent are they who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, Peace!
- 64 And they who pass the night prostrating themselves before their Lord and standing.
- 65 And they who say: Our Lord, avert from us the punishment of hell; surely its punishment is a lasting evil:
- 66 It is surely an evil abode and resting-place!
- 67 And they who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor miserly, and the just mean is ever between these.
- 68 And they who do not call upon another god with Allah, nor slay the soul which Allah has forbidden, except in the cause of justice, nor commit fornication; and he who does this shall meet a penalty of sin —

69 The punishment will be doubled to him on the day of Resurrection, and he will abide in it in humiliation —

70 except him who repents and believes and does good deeds; for such Allah changes their evil deeds to good ones. And Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

Note: The vices in which the people indulged formerly had been changed to good and righteous deeds, and those who found pleasure in evil deeds now found pleasure in the doing of good. It was the soul-force of the Prophet that had wrought this miraculous transformation.

71 And whoever repents and does good, he surely turns to Allah a (goodly) turning.

72 And they who witness no falsehood, and when they pass by what is vain, they pass by nobly.

Note: They not only shunned falsehood but were now above everything that was vain or futile.

73 And they who, when reminded of the messages of their Lord, do not fall down at them deaf and blind.

74 And they who say, Our Lord, grant us in our wives and our offspring the joy of our eyes, and make us leaders for those who guard against evil.

75 These are rewarded with high places because they are patient, and are met there with greetings and salutation,

76 abiding there — a goodly abode and resting-place!